

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(b)(ii), please *amend* the specification by replacing the following paragraphs, with markings indicating changes:

[0003] It has been realized that this type of binding ~~had~~ has two major drawbacks. During the practice of the conventional alternate step technique, it has been noticed that these systems necessitated a forward rotational movement of the boot in relation to the ski about an axis which is located far ahead of the foot. The result is a movement of the foot that ~~was~~ is not natural, far from the foot rolling movement that can be observed when walking. During the practice of the skating step, these systems also have the drawback of providing only a very poor lateral guidance of the boot in relation to the ski.

[0013] According to the invention, the arrangement of the binding device 12 on the ski 10 is such that it is arranged transversely on both sides of the position of the binding device 12, of the portions of the upper surface 26 of the ski that form support surfaces 28 which corresponding support surfaces 30 of the boot sole are adapted to contact directly. As can be seen in the drawings, the support surfaces extend to opposite transverse edges of the upper surface of the ski.